

EMBASSY UPDATES

NEWSLETTER FOR U.S. CITIZENS IN KOSOVO



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4 AUTUMN 2018

Meet The New Consul



In July, Brian Corteville, our Consul of two years, departed post for his next assignment. His replacement, James Finan, is now here to take up the reins of the Consular Section. Mr. Finan will be here for three years and will be in charge of moving the Consular Section to the New Embassy Building in the first half of next year. The new facility will be a big improvement over the current office, and James foresees a more positive customer experience from the start.

Mr. Finan was last in the Balkans in 1999, as part of the military, with SFOR6, and he notes the myriad changes since that time. This is Mr. Finan's fourth State Department tour, having spent the past seven years in Central and South America. Mr. Finan enjoys traveling around the country, and the region, preferably by bicycle. If you see him out on the road, say, "Hello!" The section will be conducting outreach and Q&A sessions in the upcoming year, but in the meantime remember to check the [U.S. embassy website](#) and [Facebook](#) page for updates and to keep your information current via [STEP](#).

The U.S. Embassy will be closed on these dates:

November 12, 2018—Veterans Day
December 25, 2018—Christmas Day
January 2, 2019—New Year's Holiday
January 21, 2019—Martin Luther King Day

November 22, 2018—Thanksgiving Day
January 1, 2019—New Year's Day
January 7, 2019—Christmas Day (Orthodox)



United States Embassy Pristina, Kosovo American Citizen Services
Contact us if you have any questions at PristinaACS@state.gov.
Nazim Hikmet 30, 10000 Pristina, Kosovo
Phone: +381338 59 59 3001

Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs

The United States fights crime both at home and abroad. One of the ways it fights crime abroad is through the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (known as INL). INL is part of the Department of State and provides assistance to develop law enforcement and justice partners in the countries it operates in. One of those countries is Kosovo. Here in Kosovo, there are four core funding areas: police – through the International Criminal Investigative Training Program (ICITAP), an arm of the U.S. Department of Justice; judges and prosecutors – through the Office of Overseas Prosecution Development and Training (OPDAT), another part of the Department of Justice; civil society - through several local non-governmental organizations that promote rule of law and equal justice for all in Kosovo;



and corrections – through the INL Corrections Assistance Program. INL funding provides mentoring and advising to Kosovo institutions as well as acquisition of important law enforcement and judicial tools such as fingerprint systems and communication towers.

INL approaches its mission in many ways, coming at the same problem from different angles. ICITAP and OPDAT train law enforcement officers and court officials in important subjects such as anti-corruption. They also train procedural actions such as proper searches, evidence collection, equipment use, and how to run a courtroom well. Non-governmental organizations put pressure on Kosovo's government to do the right thing and monitor whether they are doing it. And in the corrections sector, prison professionals are learning how to manage prisons well and how to ensure there is no political interference with high-level inmates.

In these ways, INL is keeping Americans and others safe both at home and abroad. The better the criminal justice system is in a country, the stronger partners the United States has in fighting transnational crime before it reaches America's borders. Photos courtesy of US Embassy Pristina INL.



Road Sign Quiz!



What does the road sign on the left mean?

- A. Watch for wandering dudes.
- B. Walk this way.
- C. Beatles ahead.
- D. Approaching a high pedestrian traffic area.

The correct answer is D.

Unseen Kosovo—Battlava Dam



Many people, especially in summer, enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Battlava Lake. Battlava is located east of Pristina in the municipality of Orllan and provides almost all of Pristina's drinking water. The lake was created by damming the Battlava River during the communist era. It has an average depth of 35 meters, and is a great place to fish. The dam itself spans approximately 300 meters. Near the dam is an old building that is the office of the dam manager and security, Government of Kosovo employees who spend their days making sure the water is safe and clean. They maintain the dam and its surrounding property. Some of the buildings near the dam, such as the old restaurant for communist officials, are decaying, but the dam itself is kept in immaculate repair. It is fascinating to see the great vortex of the water system's intake valve and see the lake from the observation building built out on the water. Photos by Meg Welch.



NEC Update



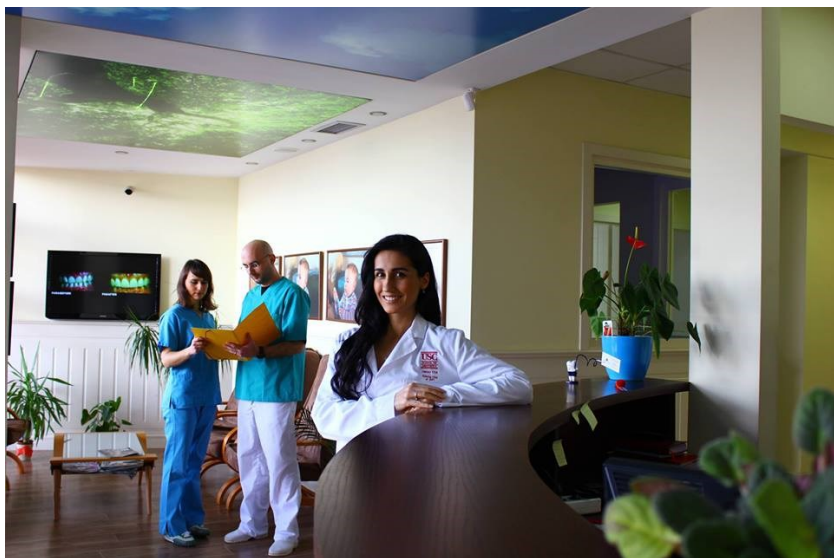
Have you seen the new Embassy construction lately? The building is nearing completion, and the Embassy's staff will move to the new building sometime in the first half of 2019. Of course, we will give you and all our customers ample notification of the move. If you want a glimpse inside the new building, here's our latest [video](#) about the project. The new building was designed to be environmentally friendly and includes a geothermal heating and cooling system and plenty of windows to take advantage of natural sunlight.



Time To Vote!

The midterm elections are November 6th. Voting is an important part of being a citizen, so please participate!

An American Dentist in Kosovo



Dr. Vesa Mita came home to be with her extended family in Pristina after graduating from the University of Southern California School of Dentistry. She obtained her US citizenship while studying in the US as a refugee during and after the war. While she had multiple offers to go into practice in California, and a desire to stay in the sun, her love of her family and need to help others led her back to Pristina. With the help of her family, the owners of [Furra Lumi](#), she opened her local office in 2012.

[Qendra e Dehmbit Qeshu-Smile Dental Clinic](#) is on one of the main streets in town, Agim Ramadani, close to downtown. The office is decorated in a manner relieves stress and adds comfort to the

(normally stressful!) dental experience. Dr. Vesa is changing the culture of dentistry in Kosovo, causing other dental clinics to rethink their practices, modernize, and put passion into dental practice. She has seen the differences in teaching dentistry in the US and in the Balkans – in the US, the students are much more hands-on and have more practical learning. There is daily lab time as well as daily requirements for clinical practice with patients, which is not as common in Balkan countries.

Dr. Vesa loves working and living in Kosovo, as it allows her a better work/life balance and freedom of choice in what she does. Her extended family helps her and her husband, who also is a dentist at the clinic, raise their two children. Never one to let grass grow under her feet, Dr. Vesa not only keeps up her California dental license with continuing education on a regular basis, she will also be starting a Master's program at King's College, London, later this year.

Canning

It's autumn, and that means it's time to preserve the harvest for the winter. Canning is one of the perfect ways to do this. It retains the nutritional value of the foods, keeps the color, and allows the taste of summer to linger through the colder months. If you've never tried canning and preserving, give it a try. The materials needed for water bath canning are easily obtained, and you can enjoy the fruits of your work all winter long.

For basic water bath canning, you need sterilized jars and lids, a pot for blanching and/or cooking the food first, and a very large pot to place the filled jars into for sealing. You can take as little as an hour to preserve a batch of tomatoes or as long as a day to fill your pantry with healthy goodness.

Here are some links to help you get started.

[Basics of Home Canning](#)

[USDA Publications on Home Canning](#)

[Centers for Disease Control on Preventing Botulism](#)

[Safe Canning Practices](#)

[How To Get Great Results](#)

[Don't Can Dairy!](#)

[Some Recipes to Try](#)



lit-